

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the title of the invention with the following title rewritten in amendment format:

~~OVER-MOLDED~~ NET-SHAPED GEAR AND MANUFACTURING METHOD FOR FORMING NET-SHAPED GEAR EMPLOYING INSERT AND PREFORM

Please replace Paragraph [0034] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

An upper die 198 is moveable from a first position shown in Figure 8 to a second position shown in Figure 9. The upper die position in Figure 8 corresponds to an open die position. The position of the upper die 198 in Figure 9 corresponds to a closed die position where upper die 198 and lower die 188 define a closed cavity 200 therebetween. During the closing movement of the upper die 198, preform 144 is contacted and deformed to fill cavity 200. Upon closure, side gear 82 is formed to include a first portion 202 corresponding to substantially deformed preform 144 and a second portion 204 including substantially undeformed insert 146. One ~~skilled of~~ ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the die configuration depicted is a closed or trapped die design. In a trapped die, ~~nearly all~~ or substantially all of the material of preform 144 is restrained within cavity 200 during the forging process. On the contrary, an open-ended die ~~concept design~~ includes a pathway one or more pathways for superfluous material to exit the die cavity during the forging process. The trapped die design advantageously provides a gear having little to no flash thereby minimizing the need for subsequent machining operations. As those of ordinary skill in the art will

appreciate from this disclosure, superfluous material can be directed to a desired area of the cavity 200, such as against the forging face 196 of the lower die 188 in the example provided, where it may be removed if necessary in a relatively low cost machining operation such as turning (e.g., facing) or milling.